(e) No. Sir.

(f) No need has been felt to give Constitutional status to the Law Commission.

[Translation]

Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

452. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to give long term extension to Maharashtra Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon, and

(c) if no action is taken so far the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have agreed to extend the Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme in Maharashtra for two years, from Ist July, 1996 to 30th June, 1998 with the stipulation that there will be no financial commitment on the part of Government of India and that, in the event of cotton prices falling below minimum support price (MSP) levels, no purchases of cotton will be made by the Cotton Corpration of India in Maharashtra during this period.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Bank Loan to Non-Existing Persons

453. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently sought detailed information from Faridkot-Bhatinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank for loaning lakhs of rupees to non-existing persons;

(b) if so, whether the bank has since furnished the information to the RBI;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that during the recovery proceedings it came to the notice of the management of Faridkot-Bhatinda Kshetriya Gramin Bank that some borrowers were not accepting liability outstanding in their names. The matter was investigated by the bank and it has reported that in 76 cases involving loan amount of Rs.6.52 lakhs, there was a doubt of misutilization/misappropriation. Some borrowers were not available at the given addresses.

(d) The Branch Manager concerned was advised by Bank Management to hand over charge of the branch to another officer. However, he was advised to make recovery only in the above mentioned 76 cases and report the progress of the recovery to the head office on a daily basis. The Bank has decided that efforts should be continued to recover the money involved in the fraud. So far, bank has recovered Rs.58,000/- from one supplier and Rs.27,000/- from the Branch Manager involved in the case. The bank has also decided that disciplinary action together with criminal proceedings by taking the help of district authorities may be initiated.

Depletion of the weight of Railways Wagons

454. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and the Indian Railways are incurring losses to the tune of Rs.700 crore a year because of the depletion of the weight of the railway wagons;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). According to the information received from the Ministry of Railways, the tare weight of wagons is measured at the time of periodic overhauls in the railway workships and discrepancy, if any, is corrected. The railways feel that the difference in the printed and actual tare weight in between the two overhauls is not significant.

Coal India Limited, however, feels that the difference between the printed and actual tare weight of wagons is not insignificant. This difference results is a substantial loss to it. Coal India Limited has taken up the matter with the concerned railway officials.

Export of Cars & Jeeps

455. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to promote the export of cars and jeeps, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). There is no exclusive scheme formulated to promote the export of cars and jeeps. However, promotion of exports of these items, like other goods in engineering sectos, has been the constant endeavour of the Ministry. Measures taken in this regard consist of various incentives provided in the Export-Import Policy. They are : Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme and Assistance from Market Development Fund

etc. Engineering Export Promotion Council also provide item specific promotional support for better access into the world market. Because of these export promotion measures/efforts, the exports of cars and jeeps have been showing rising trend.

Losses Due to Strike For Bonus

456. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Ministries/Departments together with staff strength which went on strike on the question of enhancement of upper limit of bonus in October 1996, State-wise;

(b) the approximate loss to the Government in terms of loss of mandays, and

(c) the reasons for not talking a consolidated decision on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The requisite information is not Centrally maintained.

(c) Originally, the proposal for removing eligibility wage ceiling for grant of bonus was received from the Ministry of Railways. The Government, therefore, took a decision in their favour. When demands were raised by the employees of other Ministries/Departments it was decided to extend the same benefit to all Group C and D employees of the Central Government.

Manufacturing of Electric Cars

457. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage manufacturing of Electric Car;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the permission so far given and the proposal pending with the Union Government; and

(d) the details of incentives, if any, being given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government's policy is to encourage manufacture of electric cars as such cars are emission friendly and conserve fossil fuel. Fiscal incentives are being provided to such vehicles.

(c) Manufacture of all types of cars is presently delicensed. Before delicensing, Government had approved the following proposals for manufacture of electric cars :

(i) Eddy Current (India) Ltd., Kerala

(ii) Pankaj Dubey of New Delhi.

The proposal of M/s Maini Amerigon Car Company (P) Ltd. USA, for setting up joint venture to manufacture electric powered car has been approved recently.

(d) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources grants a subsidy of Rs.2 lakhs for each batttery operated passenger vehicle (4 wheeler).

Central Grants to States

458. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS
SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA
SHRI M. SELVARASU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have released the full amount/grants sanctioned to the States particularly Orissa State for the annual plan of 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments also sought extra financial assistance during the last three years, till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) the amount actually allocated by the Union Government during the above period; and

(f) the reasons for not provided full amount sought by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Central Plan assistance consists of normal Central assistance, additional Central assistance for externally aided projects, Central assistance for Centrally sponsored schemes transferred to States and special Central assistance for Area Programmes. The States are given funds under above items as per their sanctions/ allocation.

Statement-I showing the amount sanctioned to States for the above said types said types of Central assistance and the amount released thereagainst to them is enclosed.

(c) to (f). The annual Plans of States are finalised by the Planning Commission to be funded by States own resources, Centrally allocated resources like market borrowings, negotiated loans and by Central assistance. The annual Plans are fully funded.

The States do approach the Central Government for additional assistance due to special circumstances. The Central Government, keeping in view its resource constraints and financial implications, provide addtional assistance in very special cases. Based on the information available in the Ministry of Finance, Statement-II showing details of requests received from the State Governments by this Ministry during 1993-94 to 1996-97 and the amount provided thereagainst to them till 20.11.1996 is enclosed.